

### **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Also, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation, the Examiner's indication in the instant Office Action that claims 3, 8, 11, 17, 18 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

#### **I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-21 are currently pending. Claims 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 14, 17, 18, 20 and 21 have been amended. In particular, claims 3, 8, 11, 17, 18 and 20 have been amended into independent form in order to expedite prosecution and obtain an immediate allowance of the present application. Moreover, claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice.

Support the above amendments may be found throughout the specification as originally filed. No new matter has been added by virtue of this amendment.

#### **II. 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) REJECTIONS**

**(i) Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9 and 12-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP S62-112710.**

**(ii) Claims 7, 10, 19 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP S62-112710 as applied to claims 1, 2, 6, 9 and 12-16 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,858,643 to Vavra et al.**

**(iii) Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP S62-112710 in view of the prior art allegedly admitted to by the Applicant.**

As noted above, the Examiner stated in the instant Office Action that claims 3, 8, 11, 17, 18 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

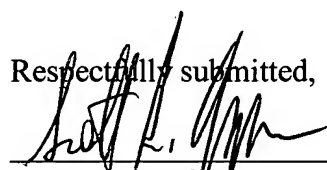
Claims 3, 8, 11, 17, 18 and 20 have been amended herewith into independent form. Furthermore, claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice. The above amendments have been made for the sole purpose of expediting prosecution and obtaining an immediate allowance of the present application but in no way constitute an admission regarding the merits of the above rejection.

In view of the above actions taken, all of the above rejections and objections are now moot. Therefore, removal of the objections to claims 3, 8, 11, 17, 18 and 20 is respectfully requested. As claims 4 and 5, depend from and incorporate all of the limitations of claim 3, claim 9 depends from and incorporates all of the limitations of claim 8, claim 14 depends from and incorporates all of the limitations of claim 11 and claim 21 depends from and incorporates all of the limitations of claim 20, removal of the rejections to these dependent claims is likewise requested.

### **III. CONCLUSION:**

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner's early and favorable action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if he has any questions or comments in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



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